



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

## Utah Department of Health Executive Director's Office

David N. Sundwall, M.D.  
Executive Director

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Director, Medicaid and Health Financing

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Director, Long Term Care Bureau

January 12, 2012

Dear Hospice Provider:

This letter is being generated to inform you that an amendment to R414-14A, Hospice Care, will be adopted on February 1, 2012. The rule amendment includes changes to Medicaid benefits for hospice clients that are under 21 years of age as well as to other operational procedures for Medicaid hospice care. The most substantive changes are as follows:

1. Throughout the rule, all references to ICFs/MR are changed to ICF/ID which stands for intermediate care facility for people with an intellectual disability.
2. R414-14A-6, Hospice Election
  - Subsection (2)(c) is changed to indicate that adult clients (21 years of age or older) are the only Medicaid hospice clients that must acknowledge waiving certain Medicaid services upon election of hospice care. (Election statements for clients under 21 years of age should omit this acknowledgement.)
  - By way of reminder, Subsection (5) was amended on 5/16/11. The new language states that at the time a Medicaid client selects the hospice benefit, including changing to a different provider under a change of designated hospice, notification to The Department of Health must include a copy of the hospice election statement and the physician's certification of terminal illness for hospice care. Hospice providers are no longer required to submit copies of the hospice plan of care unless notification is for General Inpatient Care or for a client that has become retroactively eligible for Medicaid benefits.
3. R414-14A-9, Rights Waived to Some Medicaid Services for Adult Clients
  - This section now refers only to adults that have elected Medicaid hospice care.
4. R414-14A-10, Concurrent Care for Clients Under 21 Years of Age
  - This entire section is new and outlines the changes to Medicaid benefits for clients who are under 21 years of age. This population is permitted to receive hospice care and curative treatment for the terminal condition concurrently, without revoking hospice election. Please review this section for further details including training requirements for hospice providers intending to serve pediatric clients.
5. R414-14A-21, Post-Payment for Services Provided While in Medicaid Pending Status
  - This is another change made on 5/16/11. Subsection (1) states that if a new client is not Medicaid eligible upon admission to hospice services but becomes Medicaid eligible at a later date, The Department will reimburse a hospice provider retroactively to allow the hospice eligibility date to coincide with the client's Medicaid eligibility date when all criteria detailed in this section have been met. (The previous version of the rule limited retroactive payment to no more than 90 days.)



6. R414-14A-23, Payment for Hospice Care Categories

- Subsection (5)(a) states that for clients under 21 years of age, inpatient stays in a hospital for the purposes of receiving life prolonging treatment for the terminal illness are not counted toward the cap on reimbursement for inpatient hospice care.

Even though these are the most significant revisions to the administrative rule, hospice providers are advised to review the amendment in its entirety and become familiar with the changes in order to avoid problems with billing and to ensure seamless provision of hospice care to Medicaid hospice enrollees.

In addition, the Medicaid Hospice Provider Manual has been updated effective January 4, 2012 in an effort to bring the manual into alignment with R414-14A, Hospice Care. Providers are advised to refer to the new provider manual and to the most recently updated rule language for guidelines and requirements. The Prior Authorization Form has been revised and is included at the end of the manual for convenience. The manual can be found on the Utah Medicaid website: <http://health.utah.gov/medicaid>

Please continue to contact Suzanne Slaughter at (801) 538-6634 for telephone authorizations and notifications of transfers or hospice service terminations, and please feel free to contact me at (801) 538-6861 with any other questions.

As always, thank you for providing quality hospice care to Medicaid clients.

Sincerely,



Trecia Carpenter

Utah Medicaid Hospice Policy